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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/071,074	02/08/2002	Gino Pavlovic	BP-65	3459

7590 09/07/2005

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EXAMINER

DABNEY, PHYLESHA LARVINIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2646

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/071,074

Applicant(s)

PAVLOVIC ET AL.

Examiner

Phylesha L. Dabney

Art Unit

2646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment received on 31 May 2005 in which claims 2-12 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2-6, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Block (U.S. Patent No. 4,360,955).

Regarding independent claims 3, 9-12, Block teaches an electroacoustic microphone comprising an electrode (13) and a diaphragm (23) connected to a microphone amplifier (21) via electrical contacting, the electrostatic microphone comprising: at least one electrostrictive element (23) connected to a second electrical circuit (fig. 3; 37-38, 41; since the disc 41 uses a power source in order to spin the disc for transferring data then a second electrical circuit must be present), the second electrical circuit being independent from the electrical contacting of the electrode and diaphragm, and inherently further comprising: a controllable power supply for applying a predetermined voltage to the electrostrictive element such that the electrostrictive element changes its dimension and in turn changes the geometry and the acoustic properties of the electrostatic microphone.

Regarding claim 2, Block teaches the electrostrictive elements are piezoelectric elements.

Regarding claim 4, Block teaches operating electrostatically and comprising an electrode and a diaphragm with an annular spacer securing the diaphragm and the electrode at a spacing from one another, wherein the annular spacer is the electrostrictive element (figs. 1-10).

Regarding claim 5, Block teaches operating electrostatically and functioning as a microphone, further comprising a control loop configured to determine a voltage supplied to the electrostrictive element to compensate manufacturing tolerances and temperature effects having a negative effect on the spacing between the electrode and the diaphragm, wherein the electroacoustic transducer or electroacoustic capsule has a capacitance providing a parameter for the control loop for determining the voltage supplied to the electrostrictive element (col. 3 line 64 through col. 4 line 19).

Regarding claim 6, Block teaches operating electrostatically and functioning as a microphone, comprising a sound receiver (37) arranged between a main source of sound (41) and the microphone (11) and determining a sound level, wherein values of the sound level measured by the sound receiver are employed for controlling a voltage supplied to the electrostrictive element.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the applicant's remarks pertaining to elements 37, 38, and 41 not being a second electrical circuit, the examiner disagrees with the applicant. Since elements 37, 38, and 41 are referring to a recording disc, for example a musical vinyl record, and it is known for these vinyl records to need a power source in order to spin and allow needle 37 to translate across the surface and pickup data, then this does have the inherent functionality of a second electrical circuit.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phylesha L. Dabney whose telephone number is 571-272-7494. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8:30-4 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 1, 2005



PLD



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER